

Three species of Gazelles seem to be found in Tunis—I have seen them all, either alive or dead: the Common Gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*), the Mountain Gazelle (*G. cuvieri*), and Loder's Gazelle (*G. loderi*).

The creatures represented in the numerous Roman mosaics and frescoes include—besides most of those mentioned—the Ostrich (now extinct in Tunisia) and the African Elephant. The latter is represented unmistakably. But there is no reason why it may not have been imported from Numidia (modern Algeria) rather than have been at that time a mammal indigenous to the relatively bare plains of Tunisia, where it would miss the necessary forests.

It will be remembered that Harmo, the Carthaginian, who made an expedition along the Morocco coast in about 520 B.C., records having seen large herds of Elephants in the R. Tensift, not far from the present capital of Morocco.

2. On some Pigeons and Parrots from North and North-west Australia. By Prof. R. COLLETT, F.M.Z.S.

[Received April 7, 1898.]

(Plates XXVIII. & XXIX.)

Dr. Knut Dahl, a young Norwegian naturalist who, during the years 1894-95, lived in North and North-west Australia, and occupied his time in collecting objects of natural history for the Zoological Museum at Christiania, returned home in the spring of 1896 with a valuable collection of vertebrates and invertebrates. The Mammals of this collection have already been worked out¹, and Mr. G. A. Boulenger has given an account of some new *Sauria*² contained in it.

On a preliminary examination of the considerable collection of birds, I found, amongst the *Psittaci* and *Columbæ*, examples of three species hitherto not described, of which I append short descriptions, together with some remarks on one or two other interesting forms.

The localities in which these species were found are Arnhem Land (North Australia)³ and Roebuck Bay, situated somewhat further to the south (North-west Australia).

1. PETROPHASSA ALBIPENNIS Gould (1840).

Petrophassa albipennis, Salvadori, Cat. B. Br. Mus. vol. xxi. p. 530 (1893).

One specimen from Victoria River, 4th April, 1895 (sex unknown).

¹ Collett, "On a Collection of Mammals from North and North-west Australia" (Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1897, p. 317, with plate).

² Boulenger, "Descriptions of four new Lizards from Roebuck Bay, N.W. Australia, obtained by Dr. Dahl for the Christiania Museum," Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 6, vol. xviii. Sept. 1896.

³ A few short remarks on these localities are given in Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. 1897, pp. 317-318.

Length of wing 137 millim.; length of tail 123 millim.

To the descriptions of Mr. Gould (Handb. B. Austr. vol. ii. p. 141) and Salvadori (Cat. B. Br. Mus. vol. xxi.) may be added, that the feathers encircling the eye are whitish, and that the outer webs of the primaries from 2nd to the 6th have metallic lustre. The under wing-coverts are chocolate-brown.

But few specimens of this species were observed, as a rule single birds. They inhabited the broken sandstone ranges which are met with at the mouth of Victoria River (a little to the south of Arnhem Land). The preserved specimen was shot at Blunder Bay, near the outlet of the river in Queen's Channel.

2. PETROPHASSA RUFIPENNIS, sp. nov. (Plate XXVIII.)

Two specimens, adult males, from South Alligator River, 19th June, 1895.

Length of wing a, 150 millim.; b, 152 millim.

„ „ tail a, 146 „ b, 149 „

This species is easily distinguished from *P. albipennis* by its much greater size, by the chestnut primaries having black tips and margins, by the pale grey centres to the feathers of the head and neck, and by the whitish throat.

Descr. Head and neck greyish brown, each feather with whitish centre; throat yellowish white, unspotted. Lores black; a whitish narrow line above and below the eyelids.

All the upper surface and chest rufous brown; each feather margined with rufous; the centre of the feathers of the chest greyish white.

Abdomen and under tail-coverts (as in *P. albipennis*) chocolate-brown. No metallic spot on the upper wing-coverts, and on one of the secondaries, as in that species.

Primaries chestnut-red, with the tips and outer web blackish, the latter with a slight metallic lustre. The under wing-coverts rufous brown, those of the primaries being more chestnut.

Tail rufous brown on the upper surface, chocolate-brown (with a slight bluish gloss) underneath.

Bill and feet as in *P. albipennis*.

Hab. This Pigeon was met with in flocks in the central portions of Arnhem Land about the sources of the South Alligator River. It inhabits the stony parts of the sandstone hills; it lies close amongst the stones, and knows well how to conceal itself amongst them when wounded.

3. PTILOPUS (LEUCOTRERON) ALLIGATOR, sp. nov. (Plate XXIX.)

Two specimens, male and female, from South Alligator River, 15th June, 1895.

Length of wing Male 184 millim.; female 189 millim.

„ „ tail „ 142 „ „ 141 „

Nearest to *P. cinctus* from Timor. It differs, however, in having



J.G. Keulemans del. et lith.

PETROPHASSA RUFIPENNIS.

Mintern Bros. imp.







Collett, Robert. 1898. "On some pigeons and parrots from north and north-west Australia." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1898, 353–357.

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